

# 4th Meeting on Worship Space

## **St. Mark's Worship Space Meeting—August 16th, 2009, 10am-12:30pm**

The St. Mark's community worshipped with the Rev. Janet Campbell among us, then met afterward to discuss the St. Mark's church worship space--what things may be done to improve or change it for better use and to more be in context with modern worship in the Episcopal Church.

Janet led discussions of our worship space in context of how we use it for worship now. As part of this we talked about Total Common Ministry and how it affected our worship service and experiences. She observed how comfortable we were with each other, how well we participated, with readers, a lay preacher, and a priest and deacon administering communion. She pointed we were really informal about the peace, and our worship space "trapped" people in the pews. This needs to be addressed to allow more space for movement and for access and children. She asked what was most important about our worship space--cross, altar, reading and preaching. We then discussed several items for changes and how/when any changes could be implemented for either trial or permanent use. This discussion started in the parish hall and then moved into the nave for those who could stay and talk further.

[The common themes we are working with are to make the worship more inviting, community centered and fit better with our TCM principles, and to improve issues with safety and access.]

### **The Latest Changes Discussed:**

**Baptismal Font:** Place the baptismal font in the back of the church in the center of the aisle, and always have blessed water in it for those who enter. This provides everyone of their baptism, and it is one of the few nice pieces of furniture/art we have. No cost. Janet showed us and talked further about this important change, and how we can use it for baptism for the bishop visit.

**Paschal Candle:** Move Paschal candle to rear of church near the font when not used after Easter Season (put away during Lent only, as a minimum). It should be lit for funerals and also for baptisms (?), and have a real use most of the year, not just stored away. No cost.

**Lecturn:** Move down into the nave in front of the first row of pews and closer to the wall on the right side of the nave (same side it is on now). This makes the service readings/psalms and preaching done from this within the nave and not separated from the people in the chancel area. This is another change that would fit well with other chancel area changes. The lecturn is another of the few pieces of nice art we

have and it would be seen easier there. No cost. Much more was discussed about this change and some sight issues with the presider. We discussed other placement alternatives, too. It is clear there is no further need for the pulpit we have now.

**Pulpit/Chancel Rail:** Remove the pulpit and re-place/fill in the chancel rail to become the altar rail—move it back enough to establish a place to kneel for receiving communion. We could also make kneeler cushions for this. This makes, with the above changes, only one division between the nave and sanctuary (no chancel anymore). This also makes it easy to get to the altar rail for communion—no steps and close to the nave. Cost—some minor cost for moving and repairing the rail. It is now only made from finished 2" x 4"s. {The sound system box would be moved to the left wall away from the rail and could have a box made to enclose it.}

**Altar:** Move the present altar down into the chancel area maybe 6' from the new altar rail to get much closer to the congregation. No cost for this move itself. Use present one, or make/purchase new smaller one of proper materials. Either no cost, or the cost of the new altar.

**Credence Table:** Place a small table next to the altar to use for this purpose while trying this out. Leave present one on the wall. For final change, continue to use the small table next to the altar, or move existing one forward closer to the altar. No cost.

**Candles:** candle stands near the altar.

**Flowers:** could obtain a couple of plant stands to place next to the altar.

**Organ:** Move to the back left of the sanctuary. No cost, or slight cost to set up electrical outlet nearby.

**Old Altar Rail:** Remove. No cost.

**Aumbry:** Move from the sacristy and mount on the wall near the sanctus light, or get a new one if the present one does not look very nice. Either no cost or the cost of making a new one.

**Old Pews/Chairs in back of nave area:** Remove, bring in only when needed for wedding or funeral. Still have seating for 65-80 with just the main pews.

**Pews:** Angle more and open up space in the middle of them for access and children to play.

**Back wall with large cross:** Try out several different ideas using colored papers to see what looks best. (This does need to be dealt with somehow, as the cross and also all colors of flowers "disappears" when looking at that wall.) Costs for permanent changes—depends on what is decided to do.

**Bishop's Chair:** Have a specific comfortable chair for the celebrant (presider) that is vacated for any bishop visits.